creation of an environment which could prevent occurence of any disease including fibrosis/ silicosis. Silicosis is a notifiable disease under both these Acts.

Projections of Foodgrains output and Storage

*254. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the 'Navbharat Times' dated the 24th July, 1995 containing projections on foodgrains output, limited storage capacity of Food Corporation of India, swelling maintenance costs and excessive losses of foodgrains, while in storage, due to rodent population and other factors and consequent decline in per capita food consumption;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government are considering any proposal to make available more foodgrains through PDS network; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take to bring down the maintenance costs of foodgrains by Food Corporation of India?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) While the overall projection of foodgrain output and the difficulty of storage in the procuring states appear to be factually correct, the news-item has not correctly brought out the facts in respect of maintenance costs and the foodgrains losses in the Good Corporation of India. In the last three years the transit and storage shortages of foodgrains in the Food Corporation of India declined from 5.90 lakh metric tonnes (1.49%) in 1991-92 to 4.17 (0.95%) lakh metric tonnes in 1993-94. Similarly, administrative costs as a component of distribution cost incurred by FCI have gone down from Rs. 13.98 per quintal (11.6%) in 1992-93 to Rs. 10.62 (8.69% Provisional) in 1994-95. The daily per capita net availability of foodgrains has been moving in a narrow range of 464.4 grams to 474.2 grams in the last three years.

(c) Allocation of foodgrains to States/UTs under PDS/RPDS is made on the basis of assessed requirement, demand by the States/ UTs, trends in offtake and other relevant factors. At present the offtake is only 52% of the total allocation on all-India basis. While efforts are made to raise the level of offtake, there is no proposal at present for increasing the allocation to States/UTs across the board.

(d) The economise on the cost of maintaining buffer stock and for their better management, FCI has taken/been taking a number of steps like optimum utilisation of storage capacity, open sale of wheat/rice and export of foodgrains.

राज्य व्यापार निगम द्वारा बंगलादेश को चावल के निर्यात हेतु सौदा

255. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:**
श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज:

क्या वाणिज्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या गत महीनों के दौरान राज्य व्यापार निगम ने बंगलादेश को 50,000 टन चावल का निर्यात करने का सौदा किया था;

(ख) क्या इस सौदे में मध्यस्थता करने के लिए राज्य व्यापार निगम द्वारा किसी निजी संस्था की सेवाएं ली गई थीं;

(ग) क्या उन सेवाओं के लिये उक्त संस्था को प्रति टन 6.30 डालर की दर से कमीशन दिया गया था जबकि निगम को केवल 1 से 2 डालर का ही लाभ हुआ;

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ङ) उस निजी संस्था का ब्यौरा क्या है तथा संस्था के मालिकों के नाम क्या-क्या हैं और इस संस्था का चयन करने के क्या कारण थे?

वाणिज्य मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी॰ चिदम्बरम): (क) और (ख) जी, हां।

(ग) से (ङ) एस टी सी ने अपने विविधीकरण, खासकर गैर माध्यमीकृत क्षेत्र में, प्रयासों के एक भाग के रूप में बंगला देश सरकार को चावल निर्यात करने के संबंध में अपने पहले करार को अन्तिम रूप दिया है। देय एजेंसी कमीशन भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक द्वारा निर्धारित उच्चतम सीमा में था। एस टी सी ने बांग्ला देश में जिस विदेशी एजेंट की सेवाएं ली थीं उसका नाम है--मैसर्स आई पी एण्ड एफ सी, ढाका जिसके मालिक श्री अली अहमद हैं, जो अत्यन्त प्रभावशाली माने जाते हैं।

Re-constitution of Tobacco Board

*256. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Tobacco Board was re-constituted recently;

(b) if so, the details of the new membership of the Board;

(c) how the members were selected;

(d) whether any enquiry was made by the Board before the reconstitution; and

(e) the respective sponsorship of each public member recently nominated to the Tobacco Board?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir. The Tobacco Board was reconstituted vide notification dated June 1st, 1995.

(b) The new members on the Board notified on 1st June, 1995 are as under:—

(1)	Shri Dattatraya Bandaru, Member, Lok Sabha.	Member-Elected by Lok Sabha
(2)	Shri K.V.R. Chowdhary, Member, Lok Sabha.	Member-Elected by Lok Sabha
(3)	Joint Director of Agriculture, (Special projects & Crops), D/o the D.A. & F.P., Orissa.	Member To represent Government of Orissa.
(4)	Officer nominated by Government of Maharashtra.	Member-To represent Government of Maharashtra.
(5)	Shri V. Nageshwar Rao Khammam District (A.P.)	Member-To represent growers of tobacco.
(6)	Shri P.V. Ramakrishna Rao, Khammam District (A.P.)	Member-To represent growers of tobacco.
(7)	Shri Gade Venkatappa Reddy, Kotharaddypalam, Guntur District (A.P.)	Member-To represent growers of tobacco.
(8)	Shri Vellam Reddy Mastan Reddy, Prakasam District (A.P.)	Member-To represent growers of tobacco.
(9)	Shri Bondela Reddiah, West Godavari District (A.P.)	Member-To represent growers of tobacco.
(10)	Shri Ramraj Urs, Mysore District (Karnataka).	Member-To represent growers of tobacco.
(11)	Shri R. Gopalakrishna, Guntur (A.P.)	Member-To represent Exporters/Processors of tobacco.
(12)	Shri Maddi Laxmaiah, Guntur (A.P.)	Member-To represent Exporters/Processors of tobacco.
(13)	Shri M. Umamaheswar Rao, Guntur (A.P.)	Member-To represent Exporters/Processors of tobacco.
(14)	Shri Y.V. Rao, Guntur (A.P.)	Member-To represent Exporters/processors of tobacco.

(c) The members of the Tobacco Board were selected as per provisions of 'Establishment and Constitution of the Board' under Section 4 of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975 and rules on 'manner of filling Vacancies and terms of Office of Members' as provided under Rules 3 and 4 of the Tobacco Board Rules, 1975.

(d) and (e) Recommendations for nomination to the Tobacco Board were obtained from the various State Governments, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Industrial Development and the Tobacco Board. Nominations were also received directly from individuals, public representatives and other interested bodies. The nominations received were scrutinised, in consultation with the Tobacco Board, to determine the fulfilment of legal requirements of the Act/Rules, and to provide due representation to important Tobacco growing areas, trade and industry.

Statement by Prime Minister regarding commitment towards WTO

*257. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister in his recent visit to France has made a statement that India would abide by the commitment made to the World Trade Organisation (WTO) in respect of Intellectual Property Rights and gradually do away with the quota system;

(b) whether the Prime Minister also announced that banking and insurance sectors would also be thrown open in due course; and

(c) if so, the extent to which the above is correct especially keeping in view the stand taken by Government in the Parliament on this issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) While interacting with Indian and French industry representatives at Paris, the Prime Minister had, inter-alia, clarified the status of our policy concerning India's fulfillment of obligations under WTO, consumer goods imports and reform of the insurance sector. On import policy he stated that the process of moving away from quantitative restrictions on consumer goods will take time because our priority at present is the liberalisation of imports for the infrastructure sectors. On insurance, the PM stated this is a matter on which some gradualness is needed.

The statements made by the Prime Minister are entirely consistent with the stand taken by the Government in the Parliament during the Budget Session and in reply to Parliament Questions.

Pension scheme for nationalised Bank employees

*258. SHRI S.S. SURJEWALA:

SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether he announced a pension scheme for the employees of Nationalised Banks;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Indian Banks Association entered into an agreement with the Employees' Union of Nationalised Banks on 29th October, 1993 for enforcing the pension scheme with effect from 1st November, 1993;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the scheme has so far not been implemented; if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether Government will direct the Nationalised Banks to enforce this scheme with effect from a specific date?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Finalisation of the proposed Pension Scheme for the Bank employees involves certain formalities which are at various stages of completion. The Pension Scheme will become operational as soon as the requisite formalities are completed.

ISI Marks on mosquito repellants

*259. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a number of brands of mosquito repellants available in the market do not carry the ISI mark for quality and safety;